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John Arthur Grossbeck.

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JOHN ARTHUR GROSSBECK, WITH A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HIS PUBLISHED WRITINGS.

BY WM. T. DAVIS,

NEW BRIGHTON, N. Y.

John Arthur Grossbeck was born in Paterson, N. J., of German parentage, February 2, 1883, and died on the Island of Barbadoes, April 8, 1914. He suffered from a form of diabetes for about a year and took this last journey with his devoted brother in the hope that his health might be benefited.

While as a boy he attended for a few years the public schools in Paterson, he was in fact chiefly educated out of school. His mother was a widow and poor and he had to go to work as soon as he was able, and being very able it was very soon. He worked for a farmer one summer, then in a factory, and next became a house painter. He learned this last trade pretty thoroughly. It was while he was a painter and long before he became of age that he began to make notes and drawings of the insects that he saw when he went afield, and as he did everything he undertook with much neatness and care, this enterprise was no exception.

He learned from what he read in a daily paper that Mr. Jacob Doll, of the Brooklyn Museum knew a lot about Lepidoptera, and so he took the first opportunity to call and show him his drawings in the hope that he might get names for the insects that had interested him so much. Mr. Doll has assured me that he had no difficulty in

identifying most of the species from the pencil drawings and notes. Later when Prof. John B. Smith, of New Brunswick, N. J., was looking for an assistant, both Mr. Doll and Mr. Engelhardt recommended Mr. Grossbeck for the position, which he secured. Thus he became associated in the work on New Jersey mosquitoes in 1903, and naturally from the environment became interested in Lepidoptera and particularly in the family Geometridæ. This last choice was no doubt brought about by the presence in New Brunswick of the Hulst collection. From what he learned in the Agricultural Experiment Station, and as a member of a correspondence school, he progressed rapidly and soon commenced publishing scientific papers.

Prof. Smith told me on several occasions that one of his best discoveries was Grossbeck. He would work both during office hours and out of them, as diligently and carefully as possible, his desire being to get the work well done, and usually it was so very well done that all were pleased. There are, and have been in the past, a great many clever entomologists, but it isn't so often that they combine cleverness and artistic neatness as well. This he displayed in his arrangement of collections to a marked degree. His ability to make detailed drawings of insects was of great service to Prof. Smith, and also to himself in his work on the Geometridæ as shown by the figures illustrating many of the papers mentioned in the bibliography. In this direction he was also always ready to assist his friends, and several are indebted to him for sketches to illustrate their papers.

On February 20, 1911, he became officially associated with the American Museum of Natural History, to which institution he gave his collection of insects, including a considerable number of types of Geometrid moths. In return the Trustees of the Museum elected him a patron. In 1911 he moved to Staten Island and in 1912 built a shingle covered bungalow in the picturesque Clove Valley, which he occupied with his wife and two infant sons.

While employed in New Brunswick Mr. Grossbeck was a member of the Newark Entomological Society, and served as its secretary for a number of years. At the time of his death he was librarian of the New York Entomological Society, and a member of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences.

It has been a simple task to compile a bibliography of the writings of my friend, for like everything else that he had, his papers were in

order, and in fact most of his scientific writings had been bound into a volume, which I have often examined and which has aided me now. His last paper, one on the Lepidoptera of Florida, is to appear in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History at an early date.

The portrait of Mr. Grossbeck accompanying this article was taken in 1904, but he had changed little in appearance during the last ten years. He was short of stature, slight in build and usually wore spectacles. His features reflected a straightforward honesty of purpose that was evident to all and which won the confidence of his acquaintances who naturally became his friends.

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REPORT ON A COLLECTION OF MEMBRACIDÆ FROM THE COLOMBIAN ANDES, TAKEN BY MR. JOHN THOMAS LLOYD.¹

BY W. D. FUNKHOUSER,

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Through the courtesy of Mr. John Thomas Lloyd I have been permitted to examine a small but very interesting series of insects belonging to the family Membracidæ, collected by Mr. Lloyd in the central Cordilleras in the spring of 1912, and representing a part of the collection made by Mr. Lloyd and Dr. A. A. Allen on their trip to this region. Only eight species are represented in this collection, but of these, one is new, and several of the others are of much interest on account of their rarity and the fact that they have seldom been mentioned in literature. The synonymy and bibliography of the South American forms of the Membracidae are in so much confusion

¹ Contribution from the Entomological Laboratory of Cornell University.